

Town of Bristol  
Focus Panel  
February 7, 2012

Attending: Nate Harvey, Bob Drayn, Scott Warnshouse, Judy Salsburg-Taylor, Tom Stevens, and Sandy Riker

The first meeting of the focus panel was held at the Town Hall in Bristol on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Nate Harvey thanked all for attending and said the purpose of the panel was to assimilate, organize and present useful information for the Town Board to go forward with their actions upon the completion of the moratorium which will be presented at the next town board meeting on February 13, 2012. He said the State may be protective of the Finger Lakes as it has already done for the NYC watershed and the Syracuse area (Skaneateles Lake). However, if they do not provide this venue to the Finger Lakes it is in the small town's best interest to have some sort of guidelines in their zoning to protect our town's land and people's interests. This has to be accomplished within the federal, state, and county's parameters. One of the ways that Pennsylvania has done this for their townships is by creating an Ad Valorem Tax on the well companies; most of the revenue goes to the towns affected by the drilling companies to help offset the extra costs created by the mining activities. He mentioned the TING book created by Tioga County with regard to hydro fracking in their area. It can be found at the Tioga County website under TING Resource Binder.

Several articles were sent to the panel prior to the meeting and Judy presented another article entitled "Homeowners and Gas Drilling Leases: Boon or Bust?" written by Elisabeth N. Radow. She said that this would be the other side to the article "The Marcellus Shale: A game changer for the New York economy?" by Scott R Kurkoski.

Scott suggested he could contact the director of IOGA and someone from the DEC to come and provide more information for the panel. He went on to provide a detailed description of how Vertical Fracking is done. An operation that has been going on in our area for over 40 years. He said it is not unlike the hydro fracking that is a horizontal form of drilling. The Marcellus shale in our area is very shallow compared to the areas south of here in both NY and Pa. The drilling going on there involves going as deep as 5 to 10 thousand feet down into the earth. The Marcellus shale in our area is too shallow to perform that type of drilling operation and added that given the economics of there being a surplus of natural gas already and the present price is very low it would not be practical to do that type of drilling as it is very expensive and the return would not be there. He said that many of the drilling operations are being pulled out of the north and north-east area of Pa and moving to the south west part of Pa and back into Ohio where they are finding oil as well as wet gas making it more profitable for the drilling companies.

The panel asked Scott about the operation at Honeoye Storage here in Bristol. He said the company is now owned by Con.Ed in NYC the natural gas is stored in a depleted sandstone production field that was converted to a storage field and then shipped by a pipeline that is

owned by Tennessee Gas Co. via an interconnection located on McIntyre Road north of here and delivered to end users in NYC, LI, and the New England area. He said Honeoye Storage is well regulated by DEC, EPA, and other governmental agencies to make sure that the pipelines and gas wells are safe for storage and transportation. He expressed an opinion that hydro fracking would probably not be coming to our area anytime soon and that the southern tier is better suited to that activity. Horizontal drilling was done on South Hill back in 2002. Scott said it took 6 days to complete the operation and it was not profitable and very expensive. The cost of the drill bits is between 6 and 10 thousand dollars apiece and cannot be reused. He said Mark Shoemaker of W. Va. Directed the operation and had the Union Drilling Company do the work. After they were done with the drilling the well was capped and the surface lands disturbed were landscaped to the owner's specifications.

The timeline from the State regarding SGEIS indicates it may not be completed this year as they have more comments to sort out before making a conclusion. This takes many people and lots of man hours, Gov. Cuomo is not providing any extra funds for such an undertaking and or the hiring of additional inspectors that would be needed to monitor the drilling if permits were issued by the DEC and State. It is important to use the moratorium as a vehicle to go forward and develop zoning after SGEIS is completed and it is known what will be allowed or not by the State. It would be foolish to adopt policies before that time that may be overturned or disallowed causing the town to be left open to lawsuits and other actions that would be financially a disaster for the town. There are other towns in NYS already involved in legal battles with both the gas companies and land owners that have signed leases with them.

Tom Stevens suggested a possible action that could take place ahead of time would be to have water wells tested and monitored prior to any drilling to establish a baseline of their quality. He thought it would be a good idea for the Panel to take a road trip to Pa. to see the actual operation going on. Scott said he would try to arrange such a trip and in the meantime Judy felt it is important to have a legal perspective provided for the panel and also the possibility of having a geologist speak to the panel as well.

It was suggested that the meeting time could be changed to earlier in the day if necessary and Nate said he felt probably twice a month in the beginning. Upon hearing the outcomes from Scott and Judy he will set the next meeting date. Looking into the EPA regulations regarding Hydro Fracking and the SGEIS preliminary would be good research before the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Riker  
Secretary Focus Panel  
Town of Bristol